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REMARKS

The renumbering of claim 11 as claim 10 indicated in the Action is understood to result in claims 1-19.

The objection to the drawing with respect to the gap is traversed on the basis of Figure 3, which shows the gap about the washer 3.

Since Figure 3 is in section, the row of fasteners III is shown by the section.

The rejection of claim 1, lines 13, 14, is traversed as a proper comma series.

The rejection of claim 1, line 17, for the "improvement" is traversed by a plural and 37 CFR 1.75(e)(2).

The rejection of claim 1 for the gap a washer 3 is traversed by Figure 3 as above.

The objection to "if" in claims 3, 4, 8, 9 and 11-19 is traversed by amendment above.

The rejection of claim 6 for reciting washers/fasterers every 200 mm is traversed by original specification page 13, line 24, and original claim 1.

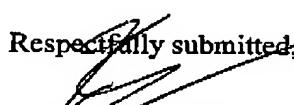
The allowability of claims 4 - 7, 10 and 12-19(formerly 20) over the art is acknowledged appreciatively.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11 under 35 USC 103 for obviousness from the cited Murciano, et al. EP patent publication in view of the cited Andrivet, et al. US patent because, while the EP discloses some features of claim 1 and, now, corresponding but differently worded new claim 20, the metallic countersunk washers 3 cannot be compare with the metallic screw (not washer) 14 of the Andrivet, et al. patent as asserted in the Action to complete the rejection. The screw 14 of the patent has a gap about it that contains conductive paste 17, but conductive paste is not a metallic washer, as claimed. The paste may ooze out from temperature changes and vibrations, leading to failure at the time of lightening

strike. The claimed metallic washer will not. Therefore, the claimed washer is not obvious from the teaching of the paste of the patent as would be required for rejection.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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